

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

Indochina

DATE DISTR. 27 OCT 49

Indications of Viet Minh Attitude toward the
Catholics

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1
CLASSIFIED

25X1 DT INFO September 1949

NO. OF ENCL.
LISTED BELOW

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

RELEVANT PASSAGES OR CONTENT

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] military meeting, presided over by General Nguyen Son, Commander
of the Fourth Military Zone (N. Annam), was held in Central Viet Nam in
August. Object of this meeting was discussion of the methods of dealing
with Vietnamese Catholics living in Viet Minh-controlled areas threatened
with occupation by French military forces.*

The program adopted at this meeting is now known to the French authorities
in Indochina. Two of its main points are: (a) The Viet Nam Army must
destroy all the Catholic villages and their leaders in order to avoid
possible treason by fifth columnists; (b) those Catholics whose loyalty to
the Fatherland has been tested can be allowed to follow the Army but they
must be constantly watched.**

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[Redacted] Comment. Viet Minh supporters have always accused the Catholics of
giving information to the French regarding the activities of the Vietnamese
Army when French troops occupy or pass through a Catholic village. The
majority of Vietnamese people feel that without the help of the Catholics
the French would never have been able to conquer Viet Nam in 1864.

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[Redacted] Comment. The official attitude of the Viet Minh toward the Catholics
has ostensibly always been friendly. However, in Viet Minh circles, views
more and more hostile to the Catholics are being privately expressed. Nguyen
Van Linh, official head of the Viet Nam Delegation [Redacted] recently said
that "The Catholics are becoming more and more unreliable."

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[Redacted] "In the future, the Viet Minh may even have to take some direct repressive
action against them." The general policy of the Viet Minh toward the
Catholics has been, and still is, to favor, control, and use them. There
are two Catholic ministers in Ho Chi Minh's cabinet. However, with the more
and more open hostility of the Catholic Church towards Communism, the Viet
Minh may find it impossible to control and use the Catholics and so will
abandon them.

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DDA Recd., 4 Apr 77

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